

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ATHENS 07913 121534Z
ACTION H-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 /009 W
-----090152 121608Z /64
P 121448Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7630

UNCLAS ATHENS 7913

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CDES, GR (BENEDECK, WALLACE A.)
SUBJECT: DEATH OF WALLACE A. BENEDECK

TO: SEN. ADLAI E. STEVENSON
ATTN: CHARLES WOLFF
230 S. DEARBORN ST.
SUITE 3960/FED. BLDG.
CHICAGO, ILL. 60604

1. REFERENCE IS MADE TO YOUR MEMORANDUM OF SEPT. 1, 1978
CONCERNING THE DISPOSITION OF THE EFFECTS OF WALLACE A. BENEDECK.
AS THE EMBASSY INFORMED THE PARENTS OF THE DECEASED, WE HAVE
BEEN UNABLE TO LOCATE HIS LUGGAGE DESPITE A SEARCH OF THE UN-
CLAIMED LUGGAGE SECTION OF ATHENS AIRPORT. WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED
A DESCRIPTION OF THE LUGGAGE FROM MR. BENEDECK'S PARENTS AND
WILL RENEW OUR SEARCH.

2. THE EMBASSY HAS IN ITS CUSTODY THOSE ITEMS IN THE POSSESSION
OF THE DECEASED AT THE TIME OF HIS DEATH, ALL OF WHICH WERE
CARRIED IN A LEATHER POUCH. THEY CONSIST OF: A WALLET WITH
PERSONAL CARDS AND PAPERS INCLUDING THE VISA CREDIT CARD;
\$600.00 IN TRAVELER'S CHECKS; 1900 GREEK DRACHMAE (APPROXI-
MATELY \$52.00) AND A YOUTH HOSTEL CARD. THESE WILL BE RETAINED
PENDING RESULTS OF OUR SEARCH FOR MR. BENEDECK'S LUGGAGE. ALL
EFFECTS WILL BE REMITTED TO THE EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE UPON
RECEIPT BY THE EMBASSY OF SATISFACTORY EVIDENCE OF CLAIM TO THEM
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IN THE FORM OF LETTERS TESTAMENTARY, OR AN AFFIDAVIT OF THE
NEXT OF KIN EXECUTED BEFORE A NOTARY PUBLIC, IN THE EVENT
MR. BENEDECK DIED INTESATE.

3. IN RESPONSE TO THE EMBASSY'S ACCOUNT TO MR. AND MRS. BENEDECK'
OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THEIR SON'S DEATH, WE RECEIVED A LETTER
FROM THEM CONTAINING NUMEROUS QUESTIONS WHICH WE ARE IN THE

PROCESS OF ANSWERING. WE NOW HAVE RECEIVED ALL DOCUMENTATION REQUESTED OF THE GREEK AUTHORITIES, WHICH IS BEING TRANSLATED AND WHICH WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE BENEDECKS. THEY CONSIST OF EXCERPTS OF THE POLICE REPORT OF THE ACCIDENT; STATEMENTS OF THE TWO WITNESSES (BOTH SWISS CITIZENS) AND DRIVER OF THE TRUCK AND HIS WIFE; THE AUTOPSY REPORT AND RESULTS OF THE TOXICOLOGICAL TESTS. AS THE TERMINOLOGY OF THE LATTER DOCUMENT IS EXTREMELY TECHNICAL, IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO CALL UPON THE SERVICES OF AN EXPERT IN PREPARING THE TRANSLATION. ALL OTHER TRANSLATIONS ARE BEING MADE BY EMBASSY EMPLOYEES AND ARE UNOFFICIAL.
MCCLOSKEY

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NNN

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